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The United States

National Arboretum

Washington, D. C.



U. S. Department of Agriculture

PA-309

The United States National Arboretum



The United States National Arboretum was established by Act of Congress on March 4, 1927.

The purpose of the Arboretum is to conduct research with woody plants, and to further public education with respect to trees and shrubs susceptible of cultivation in the climate prevailing in the Washington, D. C., area.

The Arboretum, which is in its early stage of development, is administered by the Secretary of Agriculture through the Horticultural Crops Research Branch of the Agricultural Research Service. The Secretary is assisted by an advisory committee of public-spirited citizens and representatives of interested organizations in developing the Arboretum and its program.

The strategic location of the Arboretum enables it to serve as a national institution in a very real sense. It is in an intermediate climatic zone enabling the cultivation of plants from a wide range of habitats.

The work of the Arboretum is conducted by a director and technical staff located on the grounds.

The Arboretum Plantings



The plantings are arranged in varied patterns throughout the Arboretum. The principal plant groups are indicated on the map (inside).

In direct view of the M Street entrance is the 30-acre "synoptic" garden, which is an assembly of representatives of all the plantings within the Arboretum.

There are single-genus plantings of hollies, crab-apples, and azaleas. There are simple and mixed plantings grouped for landscape effect. Other plantings have been grouped for use as ground covers and bank covers. The azalea clonal garden is a formal arrangement.

Plant groups of unusual interest include the azalea plantings, which are among the most extensive in the Nation, the collection of Oriental plantings in the Cryptomeria valley of the Garden Club of America, and the dogwood planting of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association.

A network of roads and trails enables visitors to observe the many thousands of woody plants that have been assembled.

The Herbarium



The Arboretum maintains, for technical reference, a herbarium which is of world significance because of its large representation of plants of economic importance. The collection of 470,000 dried plant specimens is presently located at the Plant Industry Station.

Seasonal Highlights



LATE MARCH-EARLY APRIL.—The early leaf greens, flowers of camellias, the first pears, magnolias and early bulbs which have been naturalized in considerable quantity.

MID-APRIL.—Quince, magnolias, the earlier azaleas and rhododendrons, daffodils, and the flowering cherries and crabapples.

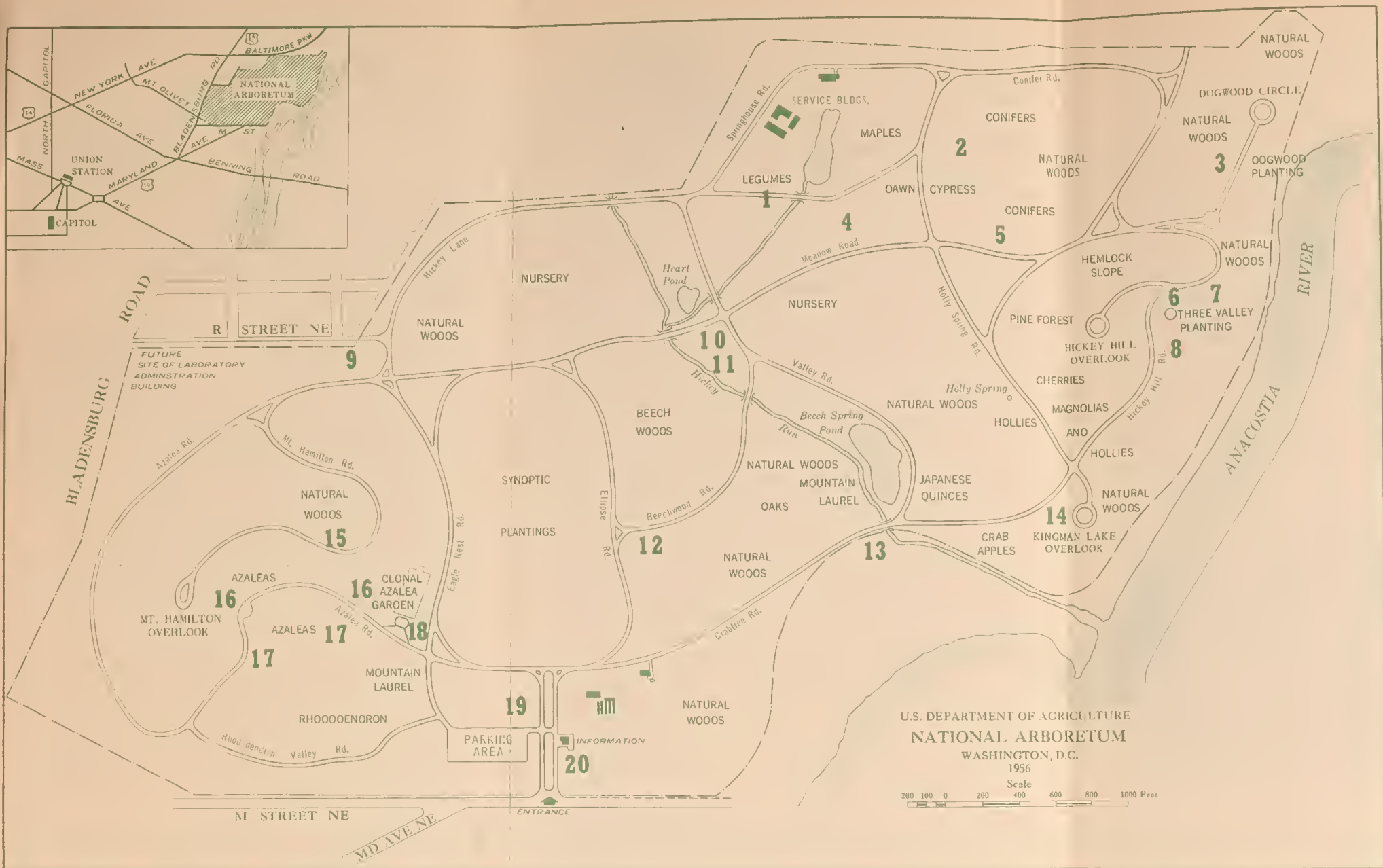
LATE APRIL AND MAY.—The main mass of azaleas, flowering dogwood, and the later crabapples are followed by native azaleas, mountain-laurel, and the huge blooms of the elephant-ear magnolia.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER.—Scattered shrubs bloom throughout the summer but special interest comes with the naturalized plantings of fall-flowering *Lycoris*, and *Sternbergia*, the massed fruits of crabapples, firethorns, and a host of berried shrubs starting in mid-September and continuing through the spectacular brilliance of October leaf coloration. The latter is highlighted by the rich yellow of tulip poplar and hickory, and the reds and bronzes of the gums and dogwoods abundantly scattered throughout the native woodlands. Fall-blooming camellias provide the last flower show through October and much of November.

Visiting Hours



Until additional guard service can be provided and roads and trails further improved, the Arboretum is open by appointment (by telephone or letter) from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m., Monday through Friday, including Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m., during the Azalea Season from mid-April to mid-May. (It is expected that the Arboretum may be open on a full-time basis by November 1957.)



Numbered Locations for Items of Special Interest

- 17. Azaleas, Ghent and Mollis hybrid (collection).
- 16. Azaleas, Glenn Dale hybrid (collection).
- 11, 13. Bald Cypress—*Taxodium* spp.
- 10. Birch, River—*Betula nigra* (large tree).
- 7. Camellias (collection).
- 8. Cedar, Atlas—*Cedrus atlantica*.
- 8. Cedar of Lebanon—*Cedrus libani*.
- 7. Cryptomeria—*Cryptomeria japonica*.

- 6. Garden Club of America planting.
- 1. Horsechestnut—*Aesculus hippocastanum* (large tree).
- 14. Magnolia, Elephant-ear—*Magnolia macrophylla*.
- 12. Oak, Black—*Quercus falcata* (large tree).
- 9. Oak, White—*Quercus alba* (large tree).
- 4. Oak, Willow—*Quercus phellos* (large tree).
- 20. Office.

- 2. Pine, Himalayan—*Pinus griffithii*.
- 5. Pine, Lacebark—*Pinus bungeana*.
- 20. Rest rooms.
- 3, 6, 17. Spring bulbs—Naturalized daffodils, tulips, scillas, etc.
- 19. Sweetgum—*Liquidambar styraciflua* (large tree).
- 15. Walnut, Black—*Juglans nigra* (large tree).
- 3. Women's National Farm and Garden Association planting.
- 18. Vine collection.

Location of Arboretum



The Arboretum is located in the northeast section of the District of Columbia. It is bounded on the west by Bladensburg Road (U. S. Highways 1 and 50), on the north by the Baltimore Parkway, and on the south by M Street. The main (M Street) gate and visitors' entrance is just east of the junction of M Street and Maryland Avenue. (See insert map inside.)

How to Reach Arboretum



CARS OR TAXICABS—From downtown Washington, take Maryland Avenue northeast to M Street, and turn east on M Street to reach main gate. The Arboretum can also be reached by way of Bladensburg Road (U. S. Highways 1 and 50) by turning off onto M Street. (See insert map, inside, for routes.)

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.—From central Washington, take streetcar No. 42 to Thirteenth and D Streets Northeast; then change to bus B-2 marked "Mt. Rainier" to intersection of Bladensburg Road and M Street. Walk east on M Street three-fourths of a mile to the main (M Street) gate.

NOTE:—During Azalea Season a small gate will be open on Bladensburg Road just south of R Street Northeast for bus passengers alighting at this point.

*For further information
apply at the office of,
or write or call*



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